

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 AF-10 ARA-14
EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 /097 W
-----071953Z 101348 /42

R 071653Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5135
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 9387

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, OCON, EAGR
SUBJ: FAO COUNCIL/DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA'S OPENING STATEMENT

SUMMARY: FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL, EDOUARD SAOUMA, OPENED THE 71 ST FAO COUNCIL ON JUNE 6 WITH A HARD-HITTING STATEMENT DEFENDING HIS PROGRAMS. HE TOOK ON THE MAIN ISSUES AND ARGUED STRONGLY FOR HIS EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE THE FAO AND EMPHASIZE COUNTRY ACTION PROGRAMS THROUGH HIS PROPOSALS ON FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, INCREASED AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT, A \$20 MILLION FUND TO REDUCE POST-HARVEST LOSSES WITH \$10 MILLION FROM THE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT AND CONTINUATION OF THE FAO'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE 71ST FAO COUNCIL OPENED ON JUNE 6 IN ROME WITH RAPID AGREEMENT ON THE AGENDA. ABU SENEINA OF SUDAN WAS ELECTED FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN AND A. NIKKOLA OF FINLAND WAS ELECTED SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN. WADDA OF GAMBIA WAS PICKED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE. THE ONLY CHANGE IN THE AGENDA WAS A CHINESE PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE FAO CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XXII, TO MAKE CHINESE EQUAL WITH ARABIC, FRENCH, ENGLISH AND SPANISH AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE TEXT OF THE FAO BASIC
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DOCUMENTS. THIS ITEM WILL BE CONSIDERED UNDER AGENDA ITEM 18 SUB-ITEM ON STATUS AND USE OF LANGUAGES IN FAO. FINALLY THE APPLICATION OF THE SEYCHELLES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE FAO WAS RECOGNIZED AND WILL BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF FIVE OTHER NEW APPLICANTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER, 1977.

2. FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA'S STATEMENT WAS A QUICK REVIEW OF HIS EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE THE FAO. TEN COPIES OF HIS STATEMENT ARE BEING POUCHED TO WOLF, IO/AGR. SAOUMA NOTED THE SUPPORT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE VARIOUS PERMANENT FAO COMMITTEES. HE WENT INTO DETAIL ON THE SUPPORT HE HAS RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES ON HIS FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM. HE HAS RECEIVED 47 OFFICIAL REQUESTS PLUS 12 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST. HOWEVER, AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED WITH ONLY 12 COUNTRIES.

3. SAOUMA REMINDED THE COUNCIL OF ITS REQUEST TO HIM TO PRESENT A PROPOSAL FOR A \$20 MILLION FUND TO REDUCE FOOD LOSSES AND THAT THE FAO PROGRAM AND AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEES HAVE ENDORSED HIS PROPOSALS FOR A \$20 MILLION FUND. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE FUND AND THE USE OF AN AMOUNT OF \$10 MILLION FROM THE SUM ACCUMULATING IN THE CURRENT SUSPENSE ACCOUNT TO INITIATE THE FUND.

4. SAOUMA STRESSED THE NEED FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND HIS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH IFAD. HE ALSO CITED A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MCNAMARA OF THE WORLD BANK WHO DESCRIBED HIS HOPE FOR A LARGE INCREASE IN THE WORLD BANK'S RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURE AND EXPANSION OF THE FAO/ WORLD BANK COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

5. SAOUMA WARNED THAT ATTEMPTS TO RENEW THE UNDP WERE BOUND TO CHALLENGE SOME PATTERNS OF COOPERATION IN THE UN SYSTEM. HE REFERRED TO THE FUTURE OF AGENCY COSTS REIMBURSEMENT WHICH MUST CONTINUE. HE NOTED THE AGENCIES WERE UNITED AND EMPHORIZED THE HEALTH AND TRIED WORTH OF THE SYSTEM LIES IN ITS SPECIALIZED UNCLASSIFIED

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DIVERSITY, ITS DECENTRALIZATION OF INITIATIVE AND ITS FLEXIBILITY OF RESPONSE. ACCORDING TO SAOUMA THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES ARE BEING STINULATED BY THEIR MEMBERS TO NEW INITIATIVES, AND FULFILL THEIR OWN, NECESSARY ROLE AS AGENCIES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.....

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-07 USIA-15
COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12
NEA-10 /099 W

-----071952Z 101424 /64

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5136

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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.....RIGHT.

6. SAOUMA THEN NOTED HIS TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM WAS APPROVED WITHOUT EXCEPTION LAST JULY, BUT NOW, MAYBE, ONE OR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD LIKE TO IMMEDIATELY DISMANTLY IT. SAOUMA SAYS BEGIN QUOTE I BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL FIND, AS I DO, THAT A DEMAND TO DISMANTLE THE TCP NOW WOULD NOT ONLY BE QUITE UNJUSTIFIED AND UNJUSTIFIABLE BUT ALSO DISAPPOINTINGLY INSENSITIVE AND OUT OF TUNE WITH THE NEEDS AND SEMTIMENTS OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OUR MEMBER STATES WHETHER FROM DEVELOPING OR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

IN ANY CASE, IT IS NOT A DEMAND WHICH I COULD POSSIBLY ACCEPT NOR ONE WHICH I BELIEVE YOU COULD POSSIBLY HEED. HTE TCP IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NEW POLICIES APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL IN JULY AND OF THE NEW THRUST OF FAO FOR PRACTICAL, CONCRETE ACTION AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL.

I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT FOR ME TO PROPOSE A LARGE INCREASE IN THE TCP.
END QUOTE.

7. IN A BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT HE STATES THE TCP HAS 86 PROJECTS IN 52 COUNTRIES INVOLVING \$6.3 MILLION. OF THIS AMOUNT, ROUGHLY \$1.5 MILLION HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO
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EMERGENCIES, \$500,000 IN SUPPORT OF INVESTMENT, \$2 MILLION FOR SMALL-SCALE, GAP FILLING AND \$2 MILLION FOR TRAINING.

8. ON THE TCP, SAOUMA ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO MAKE A PROPER EVALUATION. FURTHER IN THE 1978/79 BIENNIUM HE WOULD PUT MORE IN EMERGENCIES AND QUICK-REQCTION PROJECTS. HE ALSO PROMISED FULL COOPERATION WITH THE UNDP AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL.

9. SAOUMA'S SPEECH WAS WARMLY ENDORSED BY SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO ALL STRESSED THEIR SUPPORT OF THE TCP.
PAKISTAN WENT SO FAR AS TO STATE HIS COUNTRY THOUGHT THE TCP

SHOULD BE INCREASED MORE THAN SAOUMA HAD INDICATED IN THE
NEXT BIENNIUM.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FOODS, SPEECHES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2247586
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAO COUNCIL/DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA'S OPENING STATEMENT SUMMARY: FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL, EDOUARD SAOUMA, OPENED THE 71 ST FAO COUNCIL ON JUNE 6 WITH A HARD-HITTIN
TAGS: OCON, EAGR, FAO, (SAOUMA, EDOUARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3490bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009